Labor - 1926

Agents and Agencies.

Georgia.

APR 1926

# Negroes Establish Employment Bureau

The Athens Branch of the National Negro Business League wishes to announce that it has opened a free employment bureau for the purpose of aiding firms and individuals in securing employees and employment. Anyone desiring help or anyone who is out of a job can register his name at the Bureau's headquarters, Harris Drug Store. Assistance in securing the best results possible for your request will be given free of all charges. Use our services! Call the Bureau, phone 2109, register your name and your needs and the matter will be given immediate attention.

Labor - 1926
Condition of.
See Also: Labor: Peonage.

LABOR-1926
DEMAND FOR

Labor—1926
Demand for
See Also: Occupation, Wages, etc., (Labor).

Labor-1926

Connecticut.

Demand for

# CONNECTICUT NEEDS TOBACCO WORKERS

HARTFORD, CONN. (By S. H. Gibbs)—Because of the scarcity of laborers in the Connecticut Valley tobacco section, hundreds of colored laborers are being recruited in Georgia and Tennessee to be sent here for work in the fields, it was said yesterday. Twenty-five recruited in Atlanta, Georgia, arrived this week-end to fill special jobs in the tobacco fields. During the next few weeks large numbers are expected.

Labor—1926

Demand for

# FORCE RACE CITIZENS TO WORK

## *Many Shot As Aftermath to Infamous "Conscription" Order — Guards Patrol City*

Courier

MIAMI, Fla., Sept. 30.—Two weeks ago this city, basking in the sunlight of restricted and residential segregation, pointed with unmistakable southern pride to "No Negroes Allowed" signs, which marked the boundary line between black and white Miami.

Tonight Secretary of the Navy Wilbur is conducting a rigid investigation, and telegrams of protest from all over the country are pouring into the nation's capital, the result of a race riot which broke out here Friday, in which five persons, one of them a race woman, were shot and scores were clubbed and slugged in a street battle between 2,000 Negro citizens and 200 police, 200 National Guardsmen and a detachment of the United States Marines.

**Conscript Race Workers**

A wave of indignation and resentment has swept the entire Negro population of this country as an aftermath to the riot. Tonight Miami is quiet and serene on the surface, with the work of reconstruction in the storm-swept area going on smoothly, but underneath the surface seethes an undercurrent of racial animosity, which might erupt at any time.

In the effort to restore Miami and other cities in the path of the recent hurricane which wrought havoc in Florida, sailors and soldiers, armed with rifles, have invaded Negro sections of the town and forced them into trucks in which they were carried to the storm-torn sections and compelled to work. In many instances those conscripted were en route to regular jobs. No excuses, whatever, were accepted.

The race riot resulted when the colored citizens, 2,000 strong, among whom were many women, became infuriated and resisted efforts of the marines to conscript labor for reconstruction work. At that time no effort had been made to conscript white labor and the injustice of the situation was clearly seen.

When the marines attempted to force their order the citizens opened fire. Twenty thousand Negroes are in Northwest Miami and the greater portion of them are armed. Over 2,000 angry people milled about the two wounded marines. A riot call was sounded and the law responded. Twenty men, all heavily armed, were arrested.

Only the quick action of the authorities in rushing the big detachment of heavily armed men into the colored quarter of the city stopped a riot which might have assumed dangerous proportions. Fifty or sixty shots were fired.

# ASK COOLIDGE TO BAR LABOR CONSCRIPTION

### Action Of White In Florida Called Contrary To Constitution

### TRUCKS SENT TO MIAMI BLACK BELT

### Armed Troops And Police Force Men To Dig The City Out

**CHICAGO, (A. N. P.)—The conscription of labor in the reconstruction of storm-wrecked Florida, which resulted in the wounding of several men by white sailors Friday, has brought forth hundreds of protests to President Calvin Coolidge.**

Florida.

Afro-American

In the effort to restore Miami and other cities in the path of the recent hurricane which wrought havoc in Florida, the reports declare, that white sailors and soldiers, armed with rifles, have invaded colored sections of the towns and forced them into trucks in which they were carried to the storm-torn sections and compelled to work.

10-2-26

Baltimore, Md.

In many instances, those conscripted in this fashion were enroute to regular jobs but this made no difference to the armed whites. No excuses whatever were accepted but simply "get in that truck" and a later command "get down and go to work."

## Labor Conscripted For Rebuilding of Gale-Swept Miami

MIAMI, Fla., Sept. 23.—The most sweeping emergency step taken thus far in the rebuilding of Miami came Wednesday when the conscription of labor in this vicinity was ordered.

Federal

9-30-26

State troopers, deputies, sheriff and police were sent to round up all negroes of workable age and to put them to work clearing debris in all parts of this county. They will be put to work under guard. For purposes of reconstruction, Miami has been practically converted into an armed camp. All streets are patrolled constantly by state troops and scores of regular and special police each with a six-shooter strapped at the hip. As consequence there has been little disorder.

Atlanta Ga.

Atlantians are playing their full part in the program of reconstruction. Most of them have suffered heavy property losses, but are giving thanks the toll of death and injury among them was not heavier.

Elbert Thornton, former well-known Atlanta restaurant man, is a typical example of the fate of most of them. Mr. Thornton, his wife and three children are safe, but their home and furniture were destroyed and his place of business was badly damaged.

Austin Abbott, former Atlanta automobile man, is safe, but has been forced to change his business from selling expensive Lincolns to selling Ford trucks. He reports business brisk. His mother, Mrs. O. Abbott, also is safe. Other Atlantians who are safe inclu Louis Wolford, Fred Houser, a nephew of "Cousin Fred," George Myers, Jack Pharr, Charles Austin and family, William Leake, Chris Essig, Florence Boykin, Allen Boykin, Mr. and Mrs. H. H. Gableman D. D. Brim, Don Moore, Thomas Linthicum, John N. Heath, Frank Truett, Mr. and Mrs. J. L. McClarky.

A half-million units of tetanus antitoxin for Miami storm victims was brought here Tuesday night from Richmond in an army plane piloted by Lieutenant Clayton Bissell, of Langley Field, Virginia. The 1,869 miles was covered in ten hours flying time, but the plane's propeller was broken in landing in darkness.

H. J. Bradley, pilot for Florida Airways, also landed at Hialeah with a big all-metal airplane loaded with hospital supplies, including ice packs, bandages, antitetanus and typhoid serum gathered in Tampa. Florida Airways also announced Wednesday that regular mail schedules have been resumed between the stricken area and Atlanta.—Atlanta Journal.

SEP 28 1926

## *Negro Society In Conscription Protest*

(By the Associated Press)

New York, Sept. 27.—A protest against reported conscription of negro labor in Miami, Florida, for the purpose of clearng up debris left by the recent hurricane, was telegraphed to President Coolidge, the attorney general and to the secretary of the navy today by James W. Johnson, secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People

The telegram stated that if it was true only negroes were conscripted and forced to work under armed guard, the action constituted peonage. An investigation by the department of justice and by the navy department is asked.

The telegram aslo refers to press reports "indicating unwarranted shooting of negroes by United States marines."

Ga., Courier

SEP 28 1926

**NEGROES FORCED TO WORK**

**In Miami, Says Protest to President by Colored Advancement Association**

New York, Sept. 27.—(AP).—A protest against reported conscription of negro labor in Miami, Fla., for the purpose of clearing up debris left by the recent hurricane, was telegraphed to President Coolidge, the Attorney General and to the Secretary of the Navy today by James W. Johnson, secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

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The telegram also refers to press reports "indicating unwarranted shooting of negroes by United States soldiers."

**Miami at Pre-Storm Basis.**

Miami, Fla., Sept. 27.—(AP).—Miami and south Florida gradually returned to a pre-storm basis today with the evacuation of a small contingent of National Guard troops and the resumption of business activities generally.

Arrangements went forward to co-operate all work of rehabilitation and relief under the American Red Cross, which today brought in additional nurses and doctors to relieve workers sent here from Chicago. Despite marked progress in the emergency work throughout the Miami area, the Red Cross redoubled its efforts during the day to locate families in distress.

James L. Fieser, of Washington, in supervision of all Red Cross activities here, gave assurance today that the entire storm-stricken zone will be given adequate assistance before the organization closed its relief operations in this section. No time limit has been set for the termination of Red Cross aid in this zone.

"A careful study of each family's resources and liabilities will be made by trained disaster workers and awards for rebuilding, furniture, clothing and other needs will be based on their actual needs," he stated.

"The relief fund will be used for the rehabilitation of stricken families in the entire disaster area, the smaller towns and sufferers in rural sections in the same maner as in the larger communi-

LOEW'S INCORPORATED

ties.

More that 400 persons appealed to the citizens' relief committee here today, the highest number recorded thus far, despite similar relief activities of the Red Cross. Many persons of this area were believed for a time reticent in appealing for help, and hesitated until the needs became acute.

Requests for the most part were modest, the average amount of aid to families of several persons approximating about $100. While the number seeking financial assistance in providing shelter for families has been increasing stadily, the total number of patients receiving treatment for injuries has decreased almost proportionately.

Several hundred persons during the day were inoculated for typhoid, although the danger of an epidemic of the disease was believed by health authorities and relief medical workers as passed As a safeguard measure, Dr. W. A. Claxton, chief of the city division of health, had ordered all cases of illness or other contagion reported.

Hope of federal aid for agricultural losses throughout this section was viewed today as favorable by J. S. Rainey county agricultural agent, who reported receipt of a communication regarding this subject from J. A. Cooper, of the Federal Loan Bureau at Washington. He declared Mr. Cooper had authorized the Farm Loan Bank of South Carolina to send a representative here for a complete farm loss survey. Mr. Rainey estimated that the entire damage to farmers in Dade County will approximat $120,000, this amount being exclusive o the loss to citrus growers.

## MIAMI CITIZEN GIVES GRAPHIC ACCOUNT OF SHOOTING

(Special to Atlanta Independent)

Miami, Fla., Sept. 26, 1926.—Account of shooting which occurred at 249 N. W. 9th Street, on the afternoon of Friday, Sept. 23, 1926.

About 1:30 o'clock Friday afternoon four people were shot by a sailor at 249 N. W. 9th street, at the home of Mrs. Mabel I. Burnside, one of the workers for the relief of storm sufferers in Miami. Mrs. Burnside lives next door to her father and brothers.

The sailor who did the shooting was one of three who had charge of a truck and were going about the city commandeering labor, supposedly for the city. They had been very brutal in conscripting colored men and women to service in the labor battalions. Their method was to draw a pistol on any colored person whom they met on the streets and order them under threat of shooting them to get in the truck. Failing to find men on the streets, they began going into peoples' homes and ordering them out and into the truck. If they failed to obey or resented the manner of approach, they were manhandled and beaten and thrown into the truck and kept there at the point of a pistol.

In this manner they had treated Sheddie Ward, 255 N. W. 9th St., and Mrs. Burndide, his sister, seeing the men beat her brother without cause, came out on her front porch and advised Sheddie to get into the truck peacefully and not to let the men beat him up. Whereupon one of the sailors cursed her and wanted to know what kind of smart talk she was giving them, and without further provocation went into her home and dragged her down the steps and attempted to make her get into the truck also. She refused, trying to explain to them all the time that she was working already. They would not listen to her and they beat her on the ground. When Sheddie saw them beating his sister, he jumped off the truck at the risk of life, (for he was covered by an army 45 calibre pistol all the time) and went to her assistance. He took her up from the ground with the assistance of other men who really risked their lives also, and carried her into the house. One of the sailors followed them into the hallway. In the meantime Mr. Shadrick Ward, her father, had come out to find out what all the trouble was and to see if he could not help adjust matters. He was then in the hallway with Mabel, Sheddie and the second sailor. The third sailor remained on the truck with pistol drawn to prevent any of the people they had on the truck from escaping. The driver of the truck who was a native white man, we are proud to say, took no part in the trouble. He remained at the wheel of the truck.

The first sailor and the one who d'd the shooting and the one who had caused all the mischief by his brutality and insolence, went around the house and just as Sheddie and Mr. Ward got Mabel in the house, followed by the second sailor, there was a shot fired from the rear of the house and the bullet struck Mrs. Burnside in the left hip and then passed through Sheddie's leg and then struck Mr. Ward in the leg and finally glanced off the knee of the second sailor. He had done his work. The one bullet wounded four persons, and it was fired by one of Uncle Sam's sailors.

Then some one sent in a riot call and in less then fifteen minutes the city police responded prepared to handle any situation. They found everything quiet and after making an investigation, they returned to their station.

Mrs. Burnside is in Jackson Memorial Hospital and Mr. Ward and Sheddie are at home suffering from their wounds, the sailors were apprehended and arrested, and placed in the county jail. The Miami police officials and authorities expressed theiir deep regret at the occurence and assured the people that such was not their intentions and such actions did ot meet their approval.

FLORIDA SEEMS to be bent upon alienating as soon as possible the sympathy which rightly went out to her because of the hurricane. In the New York *Times* we read the following dispatch from Miami, dated September 23:

> Conscription of all unemployed persons to aid in clearing away wreckage and to speed the work of rehabilitating the Florida storm-swept area was adopted everywhere in that area today. Militiamen and police, aided by several hundred members of the American Legion who have been specially deputized, patrolled all streets and highways, apprehending all persons who could not show that they were employed, and putting them immediately to work.

It is conceivable that such conscription of labor, although forbidden by the federal Constitution, might be upheld by the courts if ordered by a governor or legislature to meet an extreme emergency. But in Florida the decree appears to have been a mere municipal fiat and the emergency nothing more urgent than a desire to restore the attractions of Miami in time for the winter tourist season. It was easy to predict, also, that the order would be applied only to poor Negroes—not to white idlers of adequate means. A day after the above dispatch it was stated that "two marines" had been shot while trying to force a couple of Negroes to join a labor gang. What business, we should like to ask, had "two marines" to be assisting in an illegal attempt at municipal peonage? The Negroes, it seems, had only recently arrived from Nassau, and therefore were probably British subjects. If so, His Majesty's ambassador may be able to obtain for them redress which as mere American citizens they would not stand a chance of getting.

## NEGRO RESENTMENT IN MIAMI

By LOVETT FORT-WHITMAN
National Organizer of the American Negro Labor Congress.

THE sudden revolt two days ago of a section of the Negro working class at Miami, Florida, against the high-handed methods on the part of the authorities to conscript Negroes wherever found to do gang work in the clearing away of the debris as a result of the disaster in that city, cannot at all be surprising and is only another one of the instances indicating the new spirit of courage and self-respect which is taking hold of the Negro in America. It further indicates the fact that the Negro people are without defense in this country save only insofar as they are able to create thru their own organization and self-reliance.

THE Negro worker is of the most exploited, oppressed and brutalized group in America and in spite of his loyality, the government does not protect him from the ravages of his exploiters, from the brutalities of his oppressors. On the contrary, as it is clearly demonstrated the government military forces are not only withholding protection from the Negro people against the white-civil population, but from newspaper accounts, have even taken sides with those whites of Miami who would compel the Negroes to do gang work for the city.

THE clash between the Negro people and the soldiers resulting in injuries on both sides was simply the outcome of an attempt on the part of the authorities to conscript Negro labor for the city. Any Negro found in the streets regardless of any excuse was forced into a truck and carried off to do work in cleaning up the city.

THIS is something of the Negroes' every-day experience of American democracy. Down with this sort of thing! Any form of resistance that the Negro puts up against being impressed into a condition of servitude is desirable and praise-worthy. Further outbreaks are expected in Miami between the Negro working class and the authorities. And it behooves the federal government to take a hand in the matter at once. Federa are at Miami, but they are t protect all citizens alike reg of color. But the American Negro Labor Congress has all along preached that the most formidable enemy, that the Negro people has in this country is the government itself and that little at any time is to be expected in the way of protection from it. Events from day to day are impelling Negroes to the view point that organization alone counts and that the Negro people must rely more upon the principles of mutual welfare and organizational self-defense.

Labor - 1926
Demand for.

Florida.

# AFFIDAVIT SAYS DEFENDER WAS RIGHT IN MIAMI CASE

New York, Dec. 3.—The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, 69 Fifth Ave., has sent to the U. S. department of justice an affidavit reciting that our people were shot by U. S. marines in the course of enforced labor conscription after the recent hurricane, despite denials that any such violence had taken place. The affidavit, signed by Mrs. Mable I. Burnside, recites as follows:

"Having taken a job to help out in the time of distress, she returned to her home, only to see a truck loaded with screaming women, and saw three marines forcing her brother, S. Ward, Jr., into the truck, one of the marines beating him with a stick.

"That although she told the marines she had taken a job doing relief work for the relief committee, they nevertheless dragged her toward the steps of her house and down on the pavement, where they let her fall flat on her back. Her brother then leaped to her assistance by helping to carry her into the house. As soon as he got into the house she heard a bang, and felt something pass [illegible] marine shoot as he entered the rear doorway of their home, the bullet passing through her thigh, her father's thigh, her brother's thigh and the leg of one of the marines standing within the range of the bullet.

"That she was taken to the hospital and thence to the jail, where she identified the marines who were being held in jail. After remaining in the City hospital for two days she was removed to her home, where she remained for some time under the care of a private physician."

The department of justice, in response to previous complaints of violence by marines, announced that its agents could not find a single instance of anyone being forced to work without pay or of race discrimination in the application of labor conscription.

News of the mistreatment of our people by the marines was first published in The Chicago Defender. Local authorities confiscated the paper upon its arrival in Miami, and ordered the arrest of anyone caught with a copy. Organizations, guided by the information contained in the Defender's expose, protested to U. S.

# MARINE SHOOTS WOMAN RELIEF WORKER IN MIAMI

Herald Commonwealth
12-7-26
Baltimore, Md.

## Brother, Is Also Shot Who Attempted to Defend Her Against Brutality

## WOMEN HERDED INTO TRUCK FOR WORK

## Department of Justice Denies That Violence Was Done by Soldiers

**New York.—The N. A. A. C. P., has sent to the U. S. Department of Justice an affidavit reciting that colored people were shot by U. S. Marines in the course of enforced labor conscription after the recent hurricane, despite denials that any such violence had taken place. The affidavit, signed by Mrs. Mable I. Burnside, recites that:**

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Labor-1926

Demand for

Florida.

SEP 29 1926

# Negroes Angered By Forced Work in Storm Region

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Labor - 1926

General.

Demand for.

## MEXICAN OR NEGRO LABOR IS SOUTHWEST VITAL QUESTON

### Economic Competition For Control Of Southwest's Labor Supply An cute Problem

(By Geo. Perry, Staff Correspondent, Pacific Coast News Bureau.)

Los Angeles, Calif., July 30, 1926.—(Special to The Topeka Plaindealer) The real economic competition for the control of the agricultural and industrial situation in the South-West territory comprising western Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, Baja (Lower California) Mexico and California has again become an acute problem in this section, having shifted since the exclusion of the orientals from the labor situation, to the various other types of available labor.

**A Serious Problem.**

With the disappearence of the orientals from agriculture the dominant question is "Who is to do the manual labor? The European white is leaving the country faster than he is arriving; 44,750 having departed in 1925 to 27 908 arrivals. Of those who remain only a small number get west of the Rockies. Filipinoes, Porto Ricans and East Indians used in small numbers can hardly be considered in any quanity. There remain but groups, the Mexicans and the Negroes.

**Use Of Blacg Labor Discouraged**

The rapid development of cotton acreage in the SouthwestStates has created a great shortage during the seasons of experience cotton workers. In the Rio Grande Valley of Texas around Harlingen with a total cotton production in excess of 100,000 bales, a shortage of 5,000 cotton pickers existed in July last year. In the Yuma Valley district of Arizona below Needles with 30,000 acres in cotton, a call was sent in for 3,000 cotton pickers. In the Lower California-Mexico district with 135,000 acres and the Imperial Valley district of Calif. with 150,000 acres a shortage exists. In San Joaquin Valley district of California, near the colored town of Allensville, with 4,000 pickers employed at $1.50 per 100 last year, more pickers were needed.

While quite a number of Black Americans are used around Allensworth in the San Joaquin district; around Calipatria and El Centro in the Imperial Valley district; around Elythe in the Palo Verde Valley district and in the various Arizona and Western Texas districts, the tendency is to discourage the employment of Negro labor giving as a reason that only the shiftless migratory class of Negro labor is attracted and that after the season is over he drifts to the cities and becomes a parasite on the economic conditions prevailing in the large centers where there is no demand for this class of labor.

# LABOR SITUATION IN WEST CAUSES GRAVE CONCERN

## Labor Organizations Protest Importation Of Workers In Western Industries

PHOENIX, Ariz., Sept. 8.—(P. C. N. B.)—The labor situation in the cotton producing states of the southwest has reached the critical point of choosing between using colored American labor or the less efficient Mexican from our sister Republic.

With a bumper cotton crop in Texas, New Mexico, Arizona and California thousands of harvest hands must be secured. The Chinese, Japanese and Hindus heretofore the chief source of labor supply have been driven away thru the strict enforcement of the anti-alien land law. The Mexican is unavailable in sufficient quantities due to the United States immigration laws. The influx of Black American labor is undesired for fear of attracting a parasite class of migratory labor whose permanent abode will be undesirable. Free from Oriental domination yet unable to recruit sufficient white farm hands to make up the deficiency, the farmers find themselves faced with a problem more serious than ever.

**Seeking Several Solutions**

A solution in the Mexican situation is being sought thru an attempt to set aside the present immigration restrictions for the purpose of allowing contract Mexican labor to be imported across the border

# Mexican And Negro Labor Is Question In Southwest

## Big Problem Of Economic Control Depends Upon Labor Supply

By GEO. PERRY
Correspondent Pacific Coast News Bureau

LOS ANGELES, CALIF. (Special) —The real economic competition for the control of the agricultural and industrial situation in the Southwest territory comprising western Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, Baja (Lower California) Mexico and California, has again become an acute problem in this section, having shifted since the exclusion of the orientals from the labor situation, to the various other types of available labor.

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**Opportunity**

The Negro himself could overcome this aversion to his employment if a better class could be attracted. A producing class is what is needed. A progresive type of producing labor who can acquire land, establish homes, become citizens and add to the productive value of the community.

The economic condition of the colored worker is daily growing more difficult as organized movements by white associations bring pressure to bear in favor of the white worker, even in the heretofore menial positions considered "a colored man's job."

California, Oregon, Washington, Arizona and Western Texas present little industrial opportunity to the Negro. In the building trades organized labor does not welcome colored building artisans and will oppose any large influx into the trades. In Southern California and other localities where the open shop predominates, the colored artisan is employed to some degree when more efficient than his white coworker; however, the demand is for the skilled colored artisan with sufficient capital, experience and executive ability to handle his own contracts.

It is in the agricultural sections of the Southwest region comprising Southwest Texas, Arizona and California, a region of varied crops with cotton predominating, that the Negro has the opportunity to supplant the Japanese as the dominant factor in the agricultural and industrial life of this section.

**Mexican Labor**

It is this shiftless, migratory type of Mexican that is now predominating the labor situation of these states. So acute has become the situation that relief has been sought thru the introduction of the Vincent Bill into the last session of the California Congress proposing to make contract labor from Mexico possible.

Labor-1926

Maryland.

Demand for,

# 6000 UNEMPLOYED MEN SEEK WORK

## Bad Weather And Past Holiday Depression Strike Labor Hard Here

## MUNICIPAL BUREAU TO EXPAND WORK

### Employment Agency Will Move Into Bigger Quarters This Week

**"Of 10,000 unemployed men in Baltimore at the present time, at least 6,000 belong to our group, states G. B. McAllister, white, director of the Municipal Labor Bureau. Most of these unemployed men belong to the laboring class, and no direct relief is expected before February 1st," says the Labor Head.**

**50 To 100 Daily**

McAllister stated that from 50 to 100 men apply at the office daily for employment. This is because that most of the [illegible] industrial plants and large contracting firms depend upon his bureau for its common labor. In its annual report, the number placed in work during the year 1925 is given as 11,800, about half of whom are white. Each of these placements [illegible] 25 cts. the total municipal outlay being $3,600 annually. In commenting upon this cost, McAllister says,

"According to the recent financial statement of the school board, the cost for one years education given to the pupil in the public school is $58.40. It is surely worth while for the city to spend 25 cents a year to provide the fathers of these pupils with work.

**Holiday Effect**

Itinerant employment is always affected by the holidays, and adding to this, the fact that unfavorable weather has caused a number of activities to close down, the large unemployment can be readily understood. In an interview with a number of men assembled in the bureau Friday, the reporter found that they considered it a valuable and efficient agency in obtaining work for them.

**New Quarters**

The bureau will be removed this week to new quarters at 331 St. Paul Place. Many improvements will be made, not only in the physical appointments of the department, which will include a waiting room capable of accommodating at least 500 men, but the general scope of the work will be enlarged.

Labor — 1926
Demand for.

Texas.

## COTTON PICKERS WANTED

Central Avenue on Saturday afternoon. A sweltering day is again upon Dallas and "The African Boulevard as it called by those who knew it best, is thronged with a crowd which moves in all directions and the vari-colored dress of those who compose it makes the effect rather kaleidoscopis. Brown and black men and women with a sprinkling of yellows in all forms of dress are milling aimlessly about. Small groups are gathered in all of the many restaurants which line the street. Many move in the direction of the picture shows. On Elm Street cars of all descriptions are parked. They range from small Ford trucks to Packards and Pierce Arrows and on each one is the legend which is familiar to all at this time of the year: "cotton pickers wanted."

In that throng which moves about and makes one think of armies of ants or swarms of slowly moving bugs with human faces there are many white men. Their faces and features are a study in themselves. Swarthy and old, young and with reckless faces, booted and denimed and with cruel faces, all chew tobacco or straws, squirt streams of tobacco juice all about as they mingle with the crowd and ask first one and then another if they "want to pick cotton." One wonders as he sees them where they came from; how the crop is; whether as they say, the homts are fit for human beings to live in as they leave city homes for the country; whether the treatment will be good; whether any of the practices of peonage which are by no means unknown will be found in their districts; how the women will be treated? All of these things rise in the mind of the thinker who views this horde which gathers in Central Avenue not alone on Saturday but every day during the season when cotton in opening. And such thoughts are well worth while and those who in former times went thoughtlessly to the cotton fields are thinking these thoughts also and in many cases, where the treatment was not so good, are refusing to go again to suffer as they did in times past.

A young "hustler" who sits on the shine stand with us tells us of how a white bus driver pays him a dollar a head for pickers. He only transports them to farmers who want pickers. And in the story of this youngster we see the newest "labor bootlegger" of the state. And we realize that at some time, whether soon or late the very nature of the case, the importance of having the crop picked out early; the fact that the material prosperity of the whole state depends upon the labor supply of these Negroes who seem to wonder aimlessly about the Central track and that the labor bureau of the Government is interested in their employment and that Chambers of Commerce are already interesting themselves in the securing of this labor together with several Negro organizations which are now awaking to the fact that they can reap individual profit and at the same time help their people to better working conditions, are somehow going to get together in the matter of supervision of the securing of this labor supply. It can be done and in time, conditions are going to make it necessary that it be done. Labor bureaus can work in conjunction with Chambers of Commerce in gathering these laborers by securing first hand information as to the prices paid, the housing furnished, the prices of food and transportation, etc., and stop, to a great extent, many of the evils which have attended the opening of the cotton picking season in every section of this state and which are responsible for the refusal of many to leave the city for the cotton field. That thing should be speedily considered.

Express
9-25-26
Dallas Texas

## Taylor Desires Cotton Pickers; 3,000 Needed

Taylor, Texas.—Cotton picking has opened up in full blast in Williamson County. Farmers are now paying $1.25 per hundred pounds for picking. The Taylor Chamber of Commerce has applications for 1000 pickers who can furnish their beddings and cooking utensils. The farmers have houses to provide shelter for the pickers.

Cotton will yield considerably better than was expected two weeks ago. The Chamber of Commerce is receiving cotton pickers and distributing them to farmers. From 2,000 to 3,000 pickers will be needed in Williamson County. The Chamber of Commerce hopes that all localities that have a surplus of idle laborers, will take advantage of the opportunity to provide temporary labor for this surplus labor in their community.

Labor
9-18-26
Houston Texas